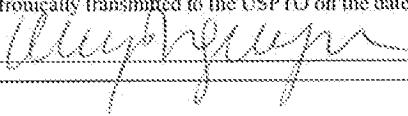


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: October 2, 2006

Signature: 

(Quyen Nguyen)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/618,841

Confirmation No.: 4346

Filing Date: July 14, 2003

Inventor(s): Lee R. GUTERMAN et al.

Title: ANEURYSM BUTTRESS ARRANGEMENT

Examiner: V. Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 3734

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed August 7, 2006, for which a response was due September 7, 2006. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a one-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to October 7, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

Claims 1-23 were presented for examination at filing. A Requirement for Restriction was issued, setting out two groups of claims and five species. In response, Applicants hereby elect Group I (Claims 1-14) and Species 1 (Figs. 1-2, and 4), with traverse.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.